Thank you for registering for kindergarten!

Your kindergarten teacher is ready for your child. Here are some ideas to help your child be ready for kindergarten.

Kindergarten ready children:
- Looks at books on their own
- Listens as a story is read to them
- Has a favorite story they can retell
- Knows their name in writing
- Prints many letters of the alphabet
- Answers questions about a short story
- Looks at pictures and can tell a story about them
- Knows the names of most of the letters of the alphabet
- Knows that one reads words on a page from left to right
- Knows simple words, such as “I, and, mom, dad” by sight
- Knows at least a few nursery rhymes

Knowing letter names and sounds are how children get ready to make words. Part of knowing a letter is knowing what sound each letter makes. Kindergarten ready children know the letter names and sounds and enter kindergarten ready to become readers!

This family kindergarten ready packet is filled with ideas for you and your child to help your child be ready for kindergarten. While there are many activities, you should select the ones that you and your child can do and have fun while doing.

Activities to grow readers using the letter and word tiles included in this Kindergarten Ready Children packet.

You will need to cut the letter and word sheets into individual letter and word tiles.

- Use the letter tiles in the kit to put the letters in order. Say the name of the letter as your child and you put them in order. Focus on learning just a few letters at a time.
- Point out individual letters on signs, on food containers like cereal boxes, menus, and other print your child sees daily. As your child learns the letter names, have them point out the letters to you.
- Read an ABC book together.
- Put all the letter tiles into a bag or bowl. Have your child draw out a tile. Have your child name each letter as they pull it out of the bag. Help them if they need it, but give them a chance to name it first.
- Write letters in the dirt or sand when you are outside.
- Use the letter tiles to play a memory game. Place the capital letters and lowercase letters that your child knows face down on a table. The first person turns over a tile. They must correctly name the letter. That player then tries to turn over the matching capital or lowercase letter to make a letter pair. The turn keeps going as long as the player makes a match. The player who makes the most matches wins.
- Play a beginning letter guessing game using words that your child uses. What letter does “bike” start with? Emphasize the beginning sound of “b-b-b”. Once your child says the beginning letter correctly, see how many words you can come up with that start with that same letter. (i.e. bike, baby, bug…).
- Give your child a page from a magazine or store ad. Circle a letter on the page, name it and have your child circle matching letters, both capital and lowercase.
- With your child sitting next to you, write your child’s name on a picture they have drawn or other paper. Say each letter as you write it. Then, encourage your child to write their name below your example, saying each letter as they write it.
Colors and shapes are all around us. Knowing the names for color and shapes is a great way for kindergarteners to talk to others about what they see in the world.

Pick a color of the week.

- Find the “color of the week” crayon in the crayon box provided with this packet.
- Write the color of the week on a piece of paper and have them copy the word below your example.
- Point out the “color of the week” as you see it in your home, neighborhood, and on clothing.
- Look around your home with your child for objects that match the “color of the week”. How many did you find? Have your child write this number on a piece of paper and draw something that they found.
- After using the common colors as the “color of the week”, look for other colors to use.
- What are the names of the other colors? What other color do they look like most?
- Have your child help you sort laundry by color or kinds of clothing such as socks, shirts, and pants.
- Name the shapes of everyday things, for example, a plate is a circle.

![Shapes](image)

**Red**  **Green**  **Blue**  **Purple**  **Brown**  **Pink**

**Black**  **White**  **Orange**

Being able to know how many objects are in a small group and how to count that small group are how children get ready to work with numbers. Kindergarten ready children know how to point one to one a small group of objects and enter kindergarten ready to be mathematicians.

**Knowing the numbers:**

- Ask your child how old he/she is. Write that number for your child on a piece of paper. Show them how to trace it with their finger and have them write that number next to your example.
- Does your child know your telephone number? Recite it together and help them write your phone number.
- Have your child help you set the table. How many plates will you need? How many forks? How do you know?
- Practice reciting your telephone number together, write each number as you say it and then dial it on a telephone.
- Practice bouncing a ball back and forth to each other. How many times can you bounce it?
There are some often used words that kindergarteners need to know by sight. We call these “sight words” because even though a child cannot read yet, they know the word just by looking at it. Knowing words by sight helps children build confidence as readers.

Here is a list of sight words. These words are on the word tiles included in this packet.

I    We    a    me
the    my    to    he
love    look    for    go
mom    dad    see    stop
and    you

Pick two sights words to be your “words of the week.”
☞ Point out these words in the books you read, on signs around your neighborhood, or on food labels.
☞ Help your child write out the “words of the week” on a piece of paper.
☞ Play “Slap It!” Set a few Sight Word tiles out on the table in front of your child. Ask your child to slap the words as you say them out loud. Start with just a few words (include the words of the week) and slowly add more to the game as your child is successful in knowing words by sight.

Children thrive in kindergarten when they are in class learning with other children every day.
Have a regular bedtime. Children who are rested will have a longer attention span and be better able to work and play with others.

Follow a morning routine. Many of us follow a morning routine as we prepare for the day. Your child is no different. Laying out clothes and packing their lunch the night before allows them to begin the day in a positive way and without rushing.

Take vacations when there is no school. Plan family vacations during school breaks.

Make wellness appointments for your child outside the school day. Appointments for immunizations and checkups should be made to keep your child current, but also not take them away from the school day.

Show your child that their school attendance matters to you. Only allow them to miss school if your child is truly sick.

Attend the family connections conference which will be scheduled prior to the start of school. At this conference, you and your child will meet the kindergarten teacher and have an opportunity to talk to the teacher about your child. Keep in touch with the teacher throughout the school year.

Attendance matters! It is hard to learn the lesson if you are not in the classroom. What the research says about children who miss school often:
☞ Missing out on learning when absent will often cause children to fall behind in later grades.
☞ It doesn’t matter if the absences are excused or unexcused; every absence is a lost opportunity to learn.
☞ Children who miss lots of school in early grades are more likely to drop out of school later.
☞ Learning to be a member of a group only happens if you are there. Making friends and learning how to be a friend is an important part of kindergarten.
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